

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 12-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4-5 and 12 are amended; and Claim 18 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found at Figs. 7 and 9 and pp. 16-21 of the originally filed disclosure. No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Simonoff (U.S. 7,043,529); Claims 1, 4-5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Simonoff in view of Morris et al. (U.S. 2002/0052919, herein Morris); and Claims 2 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Simonoff in view of Morris and Johnson et al. (U.S. 7,143,177, herein Johnson).

As noted above, Claim 18 is canceled, thereby rendering the outstanding rejection of this claim moot.

Regarding the above noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1, 4-5 and 12 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 1, for example, is amended to recite, in part, a service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses via a network, said service providing apparatus comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting to all of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

... instructions to each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms instructions commanding said one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to ***simultaneously display in one display window the list of available content, the name of the content being shared*** by all of information processing apparatuses currently

receiving transmissions from the transmitting means, and
***identification information corresponding to all of the information
processing apparatuses*** currently participating in said one of the
plurality of chat rooms.

Independent Claims 4-5 and 12, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite features similar to those emphasized above.

As disclosed in an exemplary embodiment at Figs. 7 and 9 and pp. 16-21 of the originally filed disclosure, the same main window 81 is communicated to each of the information processing apparatuses participating in the chat room. As shown in Fig. 9, within the main window 81, a list of available content 85, the name of the content currently being shared 82 and identification information of each of the apparatuses participating in the chat room 84 are simultaneously displayed.

In rejecting the claimed features directed to transmitting the instructions to display both the list of available content and the content being shared to the apparatuses participating in the chat room, p. 7 of the Office Action relies on col. 14, ll. 1-32 and Fig. 4, respectively, of Simonoff.

Col. 14, ll. 28-32 and Fig. 6 of Simonoff depicts a Web page listing of files available for display on a White Board client 301a. As is clearly depicted in Fig. 6 of Simonoff, this window displays only the listing of files, but not a list of clients participating in a chat room or a file currently being shared by a plurality of the White Board clients 301a. Similarly, col. 14, ll. 4-27 and Fig. 4 of Simonoff depicts a white board session in which a file is being shared between users, and the window shown in Fig. 4 of Simonoff does appear to identify the name of the content being shared, but not a list of available content or identification information corresponding to each of the client participating in the white board session.

Simonoff, therefore, fails to teach or suggest that the White Board server 102 transmits an instruction to a White Board client 301a, instructing the White Board client 301a to “***simultaneously display in one display window*** the *list of available content*, the *name of*

the content being shared by all of information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmissions from the transmitting means, and *identification information corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses* currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms”, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

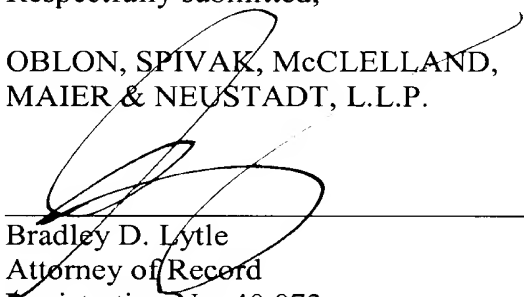
Further, neither of Morris nor Johnson remedy the above noted deficiencies of Simonoff.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 (and Claim 2, which depends therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that independent Claims 11, 4-5 and 12 (and the claims that depend therefrom) patentably define over the applied references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 12-13 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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